

## House Republican Press Release

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### **Rep. Ferrari: Bill Designating Corsair As State Aircraft Signed Into Law**



Legislation (Senate Bill 585) cosponsored by state Representative Richard F. Ferrari, R-62<sup>nd</sup> District, that designates the F4U Corsair as the state aircraft and sets May 29<sup>th</sup> as Corsair Day was signed into law today by Governor M. Jodi Rell.

Workers at Hamilton Standard, United Aircraft, Pratt and Whitney and Vought-Sikorsky produced the Corsair, the only major World War II combat aircraft built entirely in Connecticut, said Representative Ferrari, who spoke in favor of the bill on the floor of the House.

“I’d like to thank Governor Rell for signing this bill into law. I’m especially pleased that the Corsair became our state aircraft this year. 2005 marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II as well as the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Corsair’s first flight,” Representative Ferrari said. “I have always been fascinated by the history of the Corsair and its illustrious combat record in World War II. It was one of the best fighter planes built in the United States – and a fully-restored Corsair is on display at the New England Air Museum adjacent to Bradley International Airport.”

“All of the airplanes on display at the air museum have been lovingly restored – in many cases by the men and women who originally built them or helped fabricate the components that went into them,” Representative Ferrari said. “Anyone who wants to get a feel for what it was like to fly a Corsair should plan on visiting the museum on ‘Open Cockpit Day,’ when you can actually sit in the pilot’s seat and imagine you are shooting down enemy planes over the Pacific, where the Corsair played a major role in the eventual defeat of the Japanese Empire.”

Of the 12,571 Corsairs manufactured between 1940 and 1952, only about 20 to 30 still exist today. It was the first American production aircraft that could achieve air speeds in excess of 400 miles per hour. It was the only American fighter designed before the United States entered World War II that was still being manufactured in 1953. It was the last propeller driven aircraft built for American fighter pilots. During World War II, for every Corsair shot down in air combat, Corsairs downed 11 enemy fighters, Representative Ferrari said.